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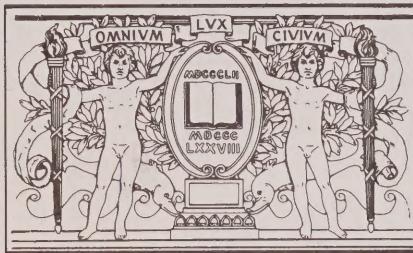
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THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL BUDGET

prepared by the Citywide Educational Coalition
in cooperation with the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

Q. HOW MUCH DO THE SCHOOLS REALLY COST?

A. The BPS will spend \$269.9M in city funds in 1985-86, up 4% from 1984-85. Much of the increase is for contractual pay raises for administrators and teachers; utilities and transportation costs are also up.

In addition, the BPS runs \$34M worth of specific programs that are funded totally by the state and federal government: Chapter 1 Reading and Math (\$13M), school meals (\$8.2M), state desegregation programs (\$5.4M), and other smaller programs in bilingual, vocational and special education. Most of these programs must run in addition to, not in place of, regular BPS programs.

For several years now, Boston's corporations and foundations have made substantial contributions to the BPS. This money is earmarked for specific extra programs, e.g., after-school sports programs in Boston's middle schools.

Q. WHERE DOES IT ALL COME FROM?

A. All of the \$269.9M comes from Boston's property taxes; \$7.21 of the \$16.42/\$1,000 tax assessment goes to the schools. However, these costs are offset by state and federal aid: last year Boston received \$89M in state aid and \$2.5M in federal aid. This aid does not go directly to the BPS but into the city's general revenues. Knowing how much aid is anticipated, however, helps the Mayor and City Council in setting the BPS spending level.

Q. WHERE DOES IT ALL GO?

A. How much?	\$ 269.9M	For What?	
For how many?			
students	55,724*	regular education	\$84.0M
teachers	3,900**	special education	\$50.2M
principals, ass'ts., dept. heads	450	heat, utilities, custodians	\$31.8M
central admin., ass'ts.	165**	fixed costs/employee benefits	\$20.6M
district admin., ass'ts.	25**	school administrators	\$18.4M
schools	121	transportation	\$13.8M
		support: guidance, nurses, library,	
		testing, equipment	\$13.7M
		bilingual education	\$12.9M
		other: court costs, CPC, adult	
		education, School Committee	
		costs, security, etc.	\$ 9.8M
		central administrators	\$ 9.7M
		vocational education, HHORC	\$ 4.3M
		district administrators	\$.7M
		Total \$269.9M	

*projected enrollment, 12/85

** does not include administrators and teachers paid for with federal, state or private funds.

Q. WHAT IS THE PER PUPIL COST?

A. If you divide the present BPS budget by the enrollment, you get:

$\$269,900,000 \div 55,724 \text{ students} = \$4,843 \text{ per pupil.}$

But you get a clearer picture of the costs if you break it down:

	Approximate costs:
37,980 regular education students at	\$ 4,052 per student
7,326 bilingual students at	\$ 4,497 per student
6,635 special education students (.1, .2, .3) at	\$ 5,023 per student
3,783 special education students (.4) at	\$ 8,327 per student
983 special education students (.5, .6)* at	\$18,527 per student

*day students or residents at schools outside the system; counted in the budget figures, but not in the enrollment figures.

Q. HOW IS THE BPS SPENDING LEVEL DETERMINED?

A. The Tregor Bill requires a "base allocation" for the BPS which cannot be reduced. It can be increased by the Mayor and City Council; for several years, though, the base allocation has remained at \$224.5M, and as BPS costs have increased, City Council has appropriated additional "supplemental" money. The BPS spending level is the total of the base allocation, the supplemental money, and anticipated aid and surpluses.

Q. WHO DECIDES HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT?

A. The School Committee does. The Superintendent and his staff draw up the budget, allocating specific amounts to specific items. The School Committee has the power to increase, decrease, add or remove any item in the budget. After approval, the School Committee submits the budget request to the Mayor who submits it to the City Council. Neither the Mayor nor the City Council can reduce the base allocation or order changes in specific budget items, though both or either can change the supplemental request.

Q. HOW MUCH MONEY WILL THE NEW EDUCATION REFORM BILL (CHAPTER 188) MEAN FOR BOSTON?

A. The BPS should get about \$8M between now and December, 1987. Almost \$1M of that money will go directly to individual School Site Councils in each Boston school. Much of the remaining money will go to new state programs aimed at improving student and teacher performance. (CWEC will publish a Fact Sheet on Chapter 188 this fall).

★ Special thanks to Michael Fung, CWEC Board member and Taft Middle School principal, and to Samuel Tyler, Boston Municipal Research Bureau Director, for their help with the statistics in this Fact Sheet.

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